

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

22 AUG 1975

Dr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Service  
Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 111  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

I am informed that our respective staffs concerned with the systematic review of permanent records for declassification under E.O. 11652 and E.O. 12065 mutually recognize that the declassification and release to the public of unevaluated intelligence reports would pose serious security problems. Although the substance of individual reports often does not merit continued classification, items in the report format, such as "Place Acquired" provide evidence of CIA operations in a given country if the report is declassified and released to the public. Source descriptions, even though general, pinpoint sectors within a country in which agents are reporting to CIA. Such official revelations of CIA operations are likely to be viewed with some jaundice, at least by the country concerned, with attendant risk to present operations. A further risk is posed by the declassification and release of a number of reports, on a specific country or subject, which individually might do no harm but in the aggregate reveal CIA interests and scope of operations during a given time frame.

In consideration of these risks and in accord with the oral understanding reached by our respective staffs, I concur that unevaluated intelligence reports require continued retention of classification to protect intelligence sources and methods and prevent any adverse impact that declassification and release of these reports could have on the foreign relations of the United States.

You are hereby authorized to retain classification on all those unevaluated SO, [REDACTED] DB, OO, and field intelligence reports that have been accessioned as permanent records to NARS by other agencies. If these reports should become the subject of requests under the FOIA or the mandatory review provisions of E.O. 12065, they should be referred to this Agency for sanitizing of format and release of non-sensitive information.

STATINTL

My staff concerned with classification review stands ready to assist in any problems of procedure that may arise.

Sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER